

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

11/12/78 INCOMING  
TELEGRAM  
7875

PAGE 01  
ACTION ARA-14

BUENOS 02760 130124Z

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
IO-13 SP-02 L-03 /049 W

R 121936Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5299

BUENOS AIRES 2760

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: VILLA DEVOTO CASUALTIES

REF: STATE 084000

1. WHILE NAMES OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" GIVEN  
REFTEL COULD CONCEIVABLY COINCIDE WITH THOSE  
OF PERSONS KNOWN TO HAVE DIED IN THE VILLA DEVOTO  
PRISON WE CAN TURN UP NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS SO.  
WE ASKED THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
RED CROSS FOR THEIR READING ON THIS, AND WERE  
TOLD THAT ORGANIZATION ALSO FINDS NO LINKAGE.  
OUR ONLY FURTHER OBSERVATION IS THAT EXCEPT FOR  
"FRANCIA" THE NAMES LISTED ARE VERY COMMON ONES  
AND EASILY CONFUSED.

2. LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER  
EMBASSY CONTACTS CONTINUE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT  
VICTIMS OF VILLA DEVOTO FIRE WERE COMMON  
CRIMINALS. THERE HAS BEEN CONCERN EXPRESSED  
HERE REGARDING THE EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF FORCE AND  
RESULTANT LARGE NUMBER OF DEATHS IN THE VILLA DEVOTO  
RIOTS. THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION HOWEVER THAT SUCH  
ACTIVITY WAS DIRECTED AGAINST POLITICAL PRISONERS  
PER SE.  
CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify ( ) In Part (X) In Full DECONTROL

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

DECONTROL

UNCLASSIFIED

Lot 81D208  
Box 4963 (2/12)